

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of displaying record data in a user interface comprising:

displaying a tabular portion of the user interface comprising plural data records;

displaying a form portion of the user interface comprising a display field that corresponds to a field of the plural data records;

determining whether to place a value in the display field; and

formatting a value in the display field to reflect characteristics of the data contained in the plural data records.

2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein formatting a value in the display field further comprises:

formatting a value for display using a first format when it is determined that the plural records share the same value;

formatting a value for display using a second format when it is determined that a portion of the plural records include a common value and a remaining portion of the plural records have no value;

formatting multiple values using a third format when it is determined that the plural records include multiple values; and

displaying a blank value when it is determined that none of the plural records include a value.

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3. A method according to Claim 2,  
wherein the first format is a color of black.

5 4. A method according to Claim 2,  
wherein the second format is a color of blue.

5. A method according to Claim 2,  
wherein the third format is a color of red.

10 6. A method according to Claim 2,  
wherein "n" of the multiple values are displayed in  
the display field.

15 7. A method according to Claim 6,  
wherein "n" is the total number of multiple values.

8. A method according to Claim 6,  
wherein "n" is less than the total number of  
multiple values.

20 9. A computer-readable memory medium in  
which computer-executable process steps are stored,  
the process steps for displaying record data in a  
user interface, wherein the process steps comprise:  
25 a displaying step to display a tabular  
portion of the user interface comprising plural data  
records;

a displaying step to display a form  
portion of the user interface comprising a display  
30 field that corresponds to a field of the plural data  
records;

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a determining step to determine whether to place a value in the display field; and

a formatting step to format a value in the display field to reflect characteristics of the data contained in the plural data records.

10. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 9, wherein formatting step to format a value in the display field further comprises:

a formatting step to format a value for display using a first format when it is determined that the plural records share the same value;

a formatting step to format a value for display using a second format when it is determined that a portion of the plural records include a common value and a remaining portion of the plural records have no value;

a formatting step to format multiple values using a third format when it is determined that the plural records include multiple values; and

a displaying step to display a blank value when it is determined that none of the plural records include a value.

11. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 10, wherein the first format is a color of black.

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12. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 10, wherein the second format is a color of blue.

5 13. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 10, wherein the third format is a color of red.

10 14. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 10, wherein "n" of the multiple values are displayed in the display field.

15 15. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein "n" is the total number of multiple values.

20 16. A computer-readable medium according to Claim 14, wherein "n" is less than the total number of multiple values.

17. Computer-executable process steps stored on a computer-readable medium, the process steps for displaying record data in a user interface, wherein the process steps comprise:

25 code to display a tabular portion of the user interface comprising plural data records;

code to display a form portion of the user interface comprising a display field that corresponds to a field of the plural data records;

30 code to determine whether to place a value in the display field; and

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code to format a value in the display field to reflect characteristics of the data contained in the plural data records.

5                   18.       Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 17, wherein the code to format a value in the display field further comprises:

                  code to format a value for display using a first format when it is determined that the plural records share the same value;

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                  code to format a value for display using a second format when it is determined that a portion of the plural records include a common value and a remaining portion of the plural records have no value;

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                  code to format multiple values using a third format when it is determined that the plural records include multiple values; and

                  code to display a blank value when it is determined that none of the plural records include a value.

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                  19.       Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 18, wherein the first format is a color of black.

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                  20.       Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 18, wherein the second format is a color of blue.

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21. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 18, wherein the third format is a color of red.

5 22. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 18, wherein "n" of the multiple values are displayed in the display field.

10 23. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 22, wherein "n" is the total number of multiple values.

15 24. Computer-executable process steps according to Claim 22, wherein "n" is less than the total number of multiple values.

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